GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:354
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2016
Water Quality Testing Laboratories
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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism in place at present for treatment of drinking water in the country;
(b) whether the Government proposes to use the conventional energy for water treatment and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the details of Water Quality Testing Laboratories (WQTLs) set up in the country along with their operational status, State/UT-wise;
(d) whether any proposal for establishment of WQTLs are pending for approval with the Government and if so, the details thereof;
(e) whether the Government has taken for ensuring regular maintenance of water treatment system in the country and if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(f) the time by which all the districts across the country are likely to get at least one WQTLs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) Rural drinking water is a State subject. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India has advised all the State Departments dealing with rural drinking water supply to provide safe water based piped water supply system and to adopt water treatment units like aeration, sedimentation, clariflocculation, filtration and disinfection to provide safe drinking water. If necessary specific treatment technologies have to be used to treat/control specific chemical contamination of local importance.
(b) For all large or mega water supply schemes, the States use 3-phase electrical energy to operate water treatment plants, pump raw and treated water and distribute safe drinking water. In small single village schemes, single phase power is also used to lift water through tube-wells/ water bodies.
(c) The details of Water Quality Testing Laboratories set up and reported by the State Governments at various levels including details of mobile water quality testing laboratories, State/UT wise into the online Integrated Management Information System of the Ministry as on 21/2/2015 is at Annexure.
(d) Approval of setting up Water Quality Testing Laboratories is done at the State level in the State level Scheme Sanctioning Committee meeting wherein representative of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation will also attend. There is no proposal pending at the Government of India level as they are not approved by the Central Government.
(e) It is the responsibility of State Department dealing with rural drinking water supply and the Panchayati Raj Institutions for ensuring proper Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of Water Supply systems including the water treatment plants. Government of India assists the States technically and financially through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, out of the allocation made to the State, up to 15% of funds could be utilized on 50:50 fund sharing pattern between Centre and State for taking up proper O&M of water supply systems.
(f) There is at least one water quality testing laboratory in each district across the country, except for certain newly created districts. Up to 3% of funds allocated to the States could be utilized for setting up new laboratories or to take up upgradation works under the sub-head of Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance and these funds shall be utilized in the fund sharing pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and the States except for NE and Himalayan States where the fund sharing pattern is 90:10.

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